

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond herein to the Final Office Action of September 3, 2008. A Request for Continued Examination, a Petition for Extension of Time (two months) and the fee therefor are submitted herewith.

Claims 1- 12 and 23-28 were pending in the Application prior to the present Amendment. Claims 8-12 and 28 are withdrawn as being directed to non-elected species. Applicants amend Claims 23 and 25-26, cancel Claims 1, 3 and 24 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to the Applicants' attorney during the telephone interview of January 8, 2009. As indicated in the Examiner's Interview Summary, possible amendments of Claim 23 were discussed during the interview. Specifically, Applicants proposed to amend Claim 23 to recite that the optical characteristic information is a distortion correction parameter which includes focal lengths of the stereo optical system, a distance between the optical axes of the stereo optical system and geometric distortion correction of an image of an object captured by the stereo optical system. Further, Applicants proposed to amend Claim 23 to recite that the control unit receives the optical characteristic information from the optical adaptor, corrects the distorted image using the distortion correction parameter, and corrects the geometric characteristic of the captured object using the focal lengths and the distance between the optical axes based on the corrected image. During the interview, Examiner tentatively agreed that the added limitations are not mere functional capabilities of any control unit.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohjoh et al. (4,856,495) in view of Heinrichs et al. (6,092,722).

As discussed during the interview, Claim 23, as amended, recites that the optical adaptor includes a stereo optical system and that the optical characteristic information includes focal lengths of the stereo optical system, a distance between optical axes of the stereo optical system and at least one distortion correction parameter of an image of an object captured by the stereo optical system. Further, Claim 23 now recites that the control unit receives the optical characteristic information from the optical adaptor, corrects a distorted image using the distortion

correction parameter, and determines a geometric characteristic of the object using the focal lengths and the distance between the optical axes of the stereo optical system based on the corrected image.

These limitations of Claim 23 are not disclosed or even suggested in the cited prior art.

The Examiner indicated that Tohjoh does not disclose the optical adaptor which includes an information device and cited Heinrichs to remedy this deficiency. Heinrichs, however, does not disclose an information device which includes an optical characteristic information which is a distortion correction parameter and which includes the focal lengths of the stereo optical system, the distance between optical axes of the stereo optical system and the geometric distortion correction of an image of an object captured by the stereo optical system. Instead, data carriers 33 of Heinrichs convey unspecified "data signals which permit an automatic adaptation of the camera head 18 and of the video camera 15a." (See, Heinrichs, Col. 5, lines 31-33). Further, neither Tohjoh nor Heinrichs discloses a control unit which receives the optical characteristic information from the optical adaptor, corrects a distorted image using the distortion correction parameter, and corrects a geometric characteristic of the captured object using the focal lengths and the distance between the optical axes of the stereo optical system based on the corrected image.

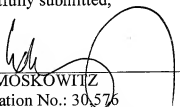
Accordingly, Claim 23 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2, 4-7, 25-27 and 29 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 23. Therefore, Claims 2, 4-7, 25-27 and 29 are allowable at least for the same reasons as Claim 23 and, further, on their own merits.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of Claims 2, 4-7, 23, 25-27 and 29 is respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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Respectfully submitted,


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